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the Kingdom of God. Let that be preached in all its fulness. Let its principles be unhesitatingly proclaimed. And then let the preacher bid each individual present, be his trade, calling, or profession what it may, go home and apply to himself in his own special needs the preaching of the Gospel he has just been listening to.

Such, at least, was Christ's method. The mistake of the essay, so fascinating and interesting as it is in style and matter, seems to have arisen through a wrong view of the preacher's work. The sermon is not, to begin with, the weekly pabulum of the modern Athenians who gather together week by week to hear some new thing; it is not the culminating effort of a week's laborious toil to produce something original, something startling; it is not a sort of ecclesiastical fireworks intended to be discharged at the close of divine service. What, then, is it? It is simply that which declares, reveals, and makes better known the Kingdom of God. Its chief element is instruction. It is the teacher's voice delivering the faith as the Church of which he is a minister has received the same. There may be, there must be, variety. The more luminous, too, the teaching, the more successful the teacher. But his powers are to be concentrated on one subject, not frittered away over the vast fields of human work and enterprise.

See this in Christ's own case. In St. Matt., xiii., we have many parables. They vary greatly in form, but there is the one truth running through all. They all deal with the one truth that in the Kingdom of God good men and bad men grow together until the harvest.

Take again St. Luke, xv. What, in the midst of variety of treatment, is the truth here? Only this, that in that kingdom the Father's love is such that it ever follows the sinner, even when in open rebellion.

Thus, not Solomon, but Christ, rightly understood, was the best exponent of the New Pulpit.

C. ERNEST SMITH.

EVOLUTION OF THE IRISH FARMER.

The Cork International Exhibition of 1883 marked an epoch in the history of dairy farming in Ireland. After over 800 years the Danes began to be troublesome again. In the old days the Danish freebooters carried off butter from the Irish dairies. In modern times the Danish farmers fought for the place in the English markets which Irish butter had held so long. Mainly through the instrumentality of the late Canon Bagot and his friends, a movement was set on foot which resulted in keeping the Danes at bay.

It is conceded by experts that the pastures of the south and middle of Ireland are among the best in the world. The soil is evenly rich and the rainfall so constant during the summer that there is nearly always an abundance of grass. Before the days of creameries and butter factories the Irish farmers were able to hold their own in competition with the dairy farmers of other parts of Europe. The introduction of butter-making machinery effected changes that brought into bold relief many flaws in their methods. Canon Bagot did his utmost to induce the farmers to lose no time in conforming to the new order of things, but so radical a change was not to be effected very speedily. Before substantial progress was achieved, failures occurred that were promptly used by interlocking interests to block the wheels of progress. Owners of market rights, brokers, coopers, hotel

and lodging-house keepers, merchants and traders, all thought they could see in the new-fangled ideas a lurking enemy. The coopers, who felt the pinch more directly, made the greatest splutter. In face of the inevitable decrease in the number of butter-casks and the increase of butter-boxes, they had recourse to the modern Irish style of vigorous resistance—the brass band and the public platform. The various elements of discontent formed into a compact, sympathetic force behind the coopers, but the creameries and milk factories continued to increase in number.

Many persons have had to find new occupations as a result of the change in methods. Many have been ruined; but, on the whole, it may be said that the good accomplished has largely outbalanced the injury inflicted on individuals. The money realized by the sale of milk has remained in the country, and the profits of the creameries and milk factories have been divided among the stockowners, nearly all of whom are Irish. The farmers do not put up at the hotels and lodging-houses as often as they used to do, but they are not prevented by the circumstances from trading at the recognized market centres.

From another point of view this alteration in methods has done some service. Irish farmers are socially inclined when attending fairs and markets, so that the restriction of such opportunities makes a gain on the side of morality. Although their visits to town are less frequent, their purchases are larger in proportion than they used to be. Several factories, taking extensive supplies of milk and giving large employment, have been established since 1883. Contracts for the milk supply are made at the beginning of each season. As a rule, the farmers accept the terms of the creamery companies, but do not pretend to be entirely satisfied. Some of the companies are exclusively composed of farmers, and there are farmer stockowners in nearly all of them. This fact has a tendency to allay suspicion and prevent the friction which otherwise would be likely to occur.

Districts that cling to the old butter-making methods have been put to their mettle by the creameries. As a consequence there has been a decided change for the better all around. A considerable extension of the butter factory system has been caused by the general striving in Ireland to reach a higher level of excellence. Considering that there are so many small dairies in which the processes of cream-gathering are inexact, the butter factory serves a very important purpose. It re-works butter and makes a feature of packing, so that shipments to the English markets are uniform in grade, style, and attractiveness. Before the day of the factory much of the low grade butter was sent out of the country. In the present state of things the tendency is to secure for Irish butter a reputation as high as that achieved for Irish bacon.

It is evident to the disinterested person that in creamery districts the owners of dairy cattle and their wives and daughters have more leisure than they formerly had. The milk is sent direct from the pasture to the creamery and payment made by check. This state of things is not regarded with satisfaction by certain Irish gentlemen who think they know what is best for the farming classes.

They believe that the farmers' wives and daughters ought not to be relieved from the drudgery of dairy work lest it may unfit the farmers' daughters to become helpful farmers' wives. The remedy suggested is to have the owners of the largest dairies provide themselves with cream separators, so that the old system of individual interests may again preponderate.

This view of the question is particularly pleasing to those who would be shocked at the notion of having their own wives and daughters slavishly occupied from morning till night. Farmers who keep a large number of cows to supply creameries can afford to have their daughters as well educated as the daughters of city merchants, and there is no reason why they should not be at liberty to do it. It does not follow that because the farmers supply creameries that they should have no reserve of milk for their houses. I found at least one case in which a portion was retained for the farmers' family. Butter was made from this by the wife and daughter. The daughter walked three miles every day, a mile and a half each way, to attend the district school. Her mother assured me that she could not afford to give her so good an education but for the sending of the milk to the creamery. It is obvious that the creamery, conducted in perfect conditions as to cleanliness and evenness, can do more than the farmers to maintain the reputation of Irish butter.

There is no more sense in wishing to return to the old system of dairying than there would be in forming a league to force the farmers to become bacon-curers. This work is admirably done at present by great factories in Ireland. Bacon-curing, although an extensive industry ten years ago, is still expanding. In 1894 there was an increase in the number of pigs over the previous year of 236,893.

The improved position of the Irish farmer should presently bring him to the door of the British Government on an errand hitherto undreamed of. During the period of struggle and hardship, depressed times and uncertainty of tenure, he had enough to do to live. Now that he is "rooted in the soil," it will not take him long to discover that he has a claim on the Education Fund.

Considering what is done by the United States Government to add to facilities for the study of agricultural science, it will appear almost incredible that the English Government does nothing in Ireland in a like direction. From 1849 down to the seventies the Queen's Colleges at Cork, Galway and Belfast had land attached for practical demonstration in agriculture. It was given up in each case, I presume, owing to lack of appreciation on the part of the farming classes.

The movement toward the public treasury for the purpose indicated would be made sooner if the Ashbourne Land Purchase Act had money enough behind it to cover the whole of Ireland. In those districts where its provisions were taken advantage of there has been a wonderful change in the sentiments of the people. Farmers who have acquired ownership of their holdings show no further interest in the work of the agitators. They have enough to do to provide for payments according to the terms agreed upon. It was the opinion of many astute politicians that ownership of the land would be the quickest remedy for Irish discontent. The Right Hon. Edward Gibson, M. P. for Dublin University, must have shared in it before his elevation to the peerage as Lord Ashbourne. But hardly any one thought that the verification would be so prompt; least of all, the Conservatives, who, it will be remembered, could see nothing good in the purchase clause of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill.

Considering the result of the experiment, it is extremely probable that the remainder of the Irish landlords will also go by purchase. When the money is in sight they will be willing enough to go.

The changed condition of the farmer is not more remarkable than the

decline of political influence. The split in the National party has blunted the weapons of the agitators. There is no man now in Irish politics who can draw the people as Parnell drew them. Mr. Redmond has some conjuring power as the exponent of Parnellite principles, but not enough to induce the farmers to take any more risks in connection with their holdings. It is remembered that the combination against the landlords which were made under Parnell brought ruin to hundreds of farmers. The well-to-do survived the shock, but the poor men were driven to the wall and had to emigrate.

No benefit has been derived from the Ashbourne Purchase Act in the south of Ireland. The agitators prevented the farmer from sharing in its benefits by assurances that better terms would be made. Many of the wealthy farmers, still paying rent, have an unpleasant recollection of the advice. It is quite plain that the farmer has shaken himself clear of the politician for the time being, and appears to be enjoying the freedom.

The increased acreage under crops shows that the Irish tillage farmers have also become more prosperous. They certainly have been spurred into greater activity. In 1894 the total extent under crops was 4,937,179 acres, being a net increase over the previous year of 59,138 acres. Still other evidences of greater activity and prosperity are afforded by the increase of 6,073 dairy cows, 9,638 horses and mules, and 82,436 poultry, and a decrease of 4,336 goats.

The earnings of the banking companies in Ireland are not wholly influenced by the prosperity of the farming classes. It is noteworthy, however, that, with one or two exceptions, they paid dividends in 1894 ranging from ten to nineteen per cent.

GEORGE HENRY BASSETT.